

For Immediate Release

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**Joint Statement from President Haridopolos and Speaker
Cannon on Budget Allocations**

~ Budget Conference to Begin at 7 p.m. ~

Tallahassee – Florida Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Merritt Island) and Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon (R-Winter Park) today announced an agreement on allocations for the 2012-2013 state budget.

“Passing a balanced budget without raising taxes is an essential step toward achieving our mutual goal of providing predictability and stability to our state’s business owners and entrepreneurs in order to promote economic growth and job creation in our state,” said Senate President Mike Haridopolos (R-Merritt Island). “Today’s allocations are an important step towards accomplishing that goal, and I commend Chairman Alexander on his handling of the budget this year, and am grateful for the strong support the Senate has shown during this year’s budgeting process.”

“The individual budgets passed by the House and Senate and guided by Governor Scott’s recommendations were more similar than we’ve seen in many prior years,” said Speaker Cannon. “Guided by the goals that both chambers share, and thanks to the tireless work of Chairman Alexander and Chairman Grimsley, we were able to produce budget allocations that address a more than \$1 billion shortfall, increase Pre-K 12 education funding by more than \$1 billion and set aside the ample reserves.”

President Haridopolos and Speaker Cannon plan to announce budget conferees later today. The Budget Conference will begin at 7:00 p.m. today.

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